

DOCKET: CU-4434

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Mi Yeon KIM)
TITLE: METHOD FOR PROVIDING ANSWER FOR QUESTION)
ON THE INTERNET)
COMPLETION OF PCT/KR2004/001106 filed May 13, 2004)

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (original) A method for providing answers to a question, which is performed on the Internet, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a question from a first user;
- (b) providing the question on a given web page;
- (c) receiving evaluation data for the question from a second user or an operator of the web page;
- (d) calculating evaluation result data by reflecting the evaluation data; and
- (e) providing the evaluation result data on the web page in association with the question.

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (e) comprises the step of displaying the evaluation result data as a predetermined graph.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying the question according to a predetermined display method if the evaluation result data is not coincident with a predetermined reference.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
step (c) comprises the step of receiving one of "affirmation" and "negation" for the question from the second user or the operator, and step (d) comprises the steps of:
increasing given evaluation value data corresponding to the evaluation result data if the "affirmation" is received; and

reducing the evaluation value data if the “negation” is received.

5. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (d) comprises the steps of:

determining whether the received evaluation data is evaluation data that is received from the operator or a user to which predetermined authority has been assigned by the operator; and

calculating the evaluation result data by assigning a predetermined weight to the evaluation data that is received from the operator or the user to which predetermined authority has been assigned by the operator.

6. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of increasing point data associated with the second user by a predetermined value in response to the input of the evaluation data.

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the step of increasing the point data by the predetermined value comprises the steps of:

receiving a limit number corresponding to a predetermined unit period from the operator;

counting an input number that the second user inputs the evaluation data during the unit period; and

if the input number is below the limit number, increasing the point data associated with the second user by the predetermined value in response to the input of the evaluation data.

8. (original) A method for providing answers to a question, which is performed on the Internet, comprising the steps of:

providing a question input by a first user on a given web page;

receiving an answer for the question from a second user;

providing the answer on the web page in association with the question;

if a plurality of answers are input, receiving votes for the answers from a third user for a predetermined voting period; and

increasing polling score corresponding to the answers in response to the input of the votes.

9. (original) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of providing the polling score on the web page in association with the answers.

10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the voting period is a predetermined period input by the first user and/or a period until the number of voters input by the first user is reached.

11. (original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the voting period is a predetermined period input by an operator and/or a period until a given number of voters input by the operator is reached.

12. (original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of receiving the answer comprises the step of receiving answers to the question from the second user for a predetermined answer period, and

the step of receiving the votes comprises the step of receiving the votes for the answers from the third user if the answer period has elapsed.

13. (original) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the answer period is a predetermined period input by the first user.

14. (original) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of adopting one or more answers based on the polling score if the voting period has elapsed.

15. (original) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of, if the polling score corresponding to the answers is less than predetermined polling score after the voting period has elapsed, not adopting an answer and displaying that there is no adopted answer.

16. (original) The method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the step of

displaying the adopted answer according to a predetermined display method.

17. (original) The method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
deciding the second user who input the adopted answer as an answer adopter; and
increasing point data associated with the answer adopter by a predetermined value.

18. (original) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the step of increasing the point data associated with the answer adopter by the predetermined value comprises the steps of:

- maintaining point data associated with a user in a point database;
- receiving compensation point data from the first user;
- increasing the point data associated with the answer adopter by the compensation point data based on the compensation point data; and
- reducing the point data associated with the first user by the compensation point data.

19. (original) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of increasing the point data associated with the answer adopter by the compensation point data based on the compensation point data comprises the steps of:

- if plural answers are adopted, distributing the compensation point data input by the first user in the ratio of the polling score corresponding to each of the adopted answers; and
- increasing the point data associated with each answer adopter by the distributed compensation point data.

20. (original) The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of increasing the point data associated with the third user by a predetermined value in response to the input of the votes.

21. (original) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the step of increasing point data by a predetermined value comprises the steps of:

- receiving a limit number corresponding to a predetermined unit period from an operator;
- counting an input number that the third user inputs votes for the unit period; and

if the input number is below the limit number, increasing the point data associated with the third user by the predetermined value in response to the input of the votes.

22. (original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of receiving the votes comprises the steps of:

- receiving a vote return command for the answers from the first user; and
- receiving votes for the answers from the third user after the vote return command is input.

23. (original) A method for providing answers for a question, which is performed on the Internet, comprising the steps of:

- providing a question input by a first user on a given web page;
- receiving answers to the question from a second user for a predetermined period;
- providing the answers on the web page in association with the question;
- if the period has elapsed, receiving input for adopting the answer and evaluation data for the adopted answer from the first user; and
- increasing point data associated with the second user who input the adopted answer based on the evaluation data.

24. (original) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the evaluation data comprises the step of receiving one of the given number of evaluation grades for the adopted answer from the first user, and

- the step of increasing the point data comprises the steps of:
- maintaining a point data value corresponding to the evaluation grade; and
- increasing the point data associated with the second user by the point data value corresponding to the evaluation grade.

25. (original) The method as claimed in claim 14 or 23, further comprising the steps of:

- receiving a problem raised for the adopted answer by a fourth user;
- providing the raised problem to the second user who input the adopted answer;
- receiving an additional answer for the raised problem from the second user who input

the adopted answer; and

providing the additional answer on the web page in association with the adopted answer.

26. (original) The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the step of receiving the additional answer comprises the steps of:

counting the number of additional answers input; and

allowing the additional answers not to be input if the number exceeds a given number.

27. (original) The method as claimed in claim 14 or 23, further

receiving a problem raised for the adopted answer by a fourth user;

providing the raised problem to the second user who input the adopted answer;

if the second user who input the adopted answer does not agree with the raised problem, receiving a cause of a rejection for the raised problem from the second user; and

providing the cause of the rejection to the fourth user.

28. (original) The method as claimed in claim 27, further comprising the step of providing the raised problem in association with the adopted answer.

29. (original) A method for providing answers to a question, which is performed on the Internet, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a question input by a first user on a given web page;

(b) receiving answers for the question from a second user for a predetermined period;

(c) providing the answers on a web page in association with the question;

(d) deciding the question and an answer associated with the question as knowledge data;

(e) receiving a recommendation for the knowledge data from a third user; and

(f) providing the recommendation on the web page in association with the knowledge data.

30. (original) The method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the step of displaying the recommended knowledge data according to a predetermined display method.

31. (original) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein:

step (e) comprises the step of receiving a category associated with the knowledge data from the third user, and

step (f) comprises the step of displaying the category in association with the knowledge data.

32. (original) The method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

maintaining the knowledge data and recommendation information associated with the knowledge data in a knowledge database;

receiving a search request for the knowledge data from a fourth user;

searching the knowledge database for the knowledge data in response to the search request;

determining an arranging order of the searched knowledge data; and

displaying the searched knowledge data according to the arranging order,

the step of determining the arranging order of the searched knowledge data comprises the steps of:

determining whether the searched knowledge data are recommended knowledge data based on the recommendation information; and

determining the arranging order by assigning a predetermined weight to the recommended knowledge data.

33. (amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a program for implementing a method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 24, 26, and 28 to 32~~ is recorded.